

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
October 01, 2007

Sandra Booher, Chairperson
Bea Lyons, Vice Chair
Katie Jones, Secretary
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian

Council Members:

Dr. Rick Rader
Jim Queen
Mary Ann Schenk
Tommy Gates
Gina Turley
Carolyn Boyd
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Karl Epperson

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Sandy Booher

In attendance:

Sandy Booher
Bea Lyons
Katie Jones
Jill Hindman
Jim Queen
Dr. Rick Rader
Mary Ann Schenk
Carolyn Boyd

Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Tommy Gates
Matt Lea, Special Assistant to the Mayor, City of
Chattanooga

Visitors were recognized and thanked for attending today's meeting. Mention was made of the National Complete Streets Coalition that is working to promote complete streets policies throughout the U. S.; transportation planning organizations and public works departments will be considering all road users when building new roads and retrofitting old facilities including pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities. Tennessee does have bicycle and pedestrian policies; however, we'd like to see local governments adopt complete streets policies, too.

Meeting minutes for August 2007 and September 2007 were approved with corrections.

Bea Lyons reported for the Nominating Committee stating that there are now three vacancies on the Mayor's Council on Disability. She described the nominations process and indicated that the committee will be working via email.

A second session of the MCD retreat will be held immediately following today's Council meeting with Angie Sledge from the Center for Non-profits facilitating the retreat.

A Go!Fest update was presented by Sandy Booher, Carol Martin, Dr. Rick Rader, and Jill Hindman. Sandy shared that the Arts at the Tivoli would not be happening due to some

coordination difficulties; this event has been postponed to a later date. Carol Martin reported on the Career Expo where there were 12 to 15 agencies, 4 to 5 colleges and 5 employers would be participating. The Career Expo will be held at the Zoo along with Go!Fest activities on October 13, 2:00 until 5:00pm. Jill explained Go!Fest as an annual event, this being the third year for its celebration. The 2007 focus is on high school and middle school students with the event taking place at the Zoo and open to anyone desiring to come. Demonstrations, simulations of blindness and Deaf Deaf Deaf World have been set up for kids to learn what it's like to have a disability. A concert is planned for 5:30pm at Frost Stadium with Jennifer Daniels performing. CARTA is providing shuttle service between the Zoo and Frost Stadium.

Jill Hindman reported on the Stigma Project; Epilepsy Foundation of Chattanooga and the National Epilepsy Foundation have joined forces with the project; we're also working with the Girl Scouts locally to develop a merit badge and appropriate criteria for that; girls will be able to earn merit badge on stigma.

Jill also reported on the community meeting with Representative JoAnne Favors that is set for Friday, November 09, 9:30am until 3:30pm to be held in the Lookout Mountain Room of the UTC Student Center. Jill also announced a Latino Fair to be held October 21, 1:00-5:00pm, at the St. Andrews Center; for more information contact Mirtha Jones at 697-2514.

The Developmental Disability Council (DDC) is working with legislators in attempt to get them to set aside funding to

create a state-wide waiver program for people with physical disabilities. Funding would be for medical services for people with developmental issues.

Jim Queen presented an update on CARTA and Care-a-Van services. There will be three new replacement Care-a-Van vehicles in the spring 2008, with one for neighborhood routes. Big news is WIFI and incorporating this technology sometime between now and 2009; CARTA Care-a-Van computer system will be completely updated about October 11, with a new version. CARTA has contracted with Chattanooga State to provide free transportation to students throughout the fixed route system as well as the MOCS Express. Transportation is for students, professors, anyone with a disability for any ride, not just to and from the campus.

Comments from the audience: this quarter's Parks and Recreation Guides were distributed to support coordination agencies; announcement of upcoming October CARTA and TPO Human Service Transportation Coordination event to be posted on the TPO web site; federal regulations state that coordination plan must be in place for older adults, persons with disabilities and individuals with low income.

Phillip Stevens reported on the Go!Fest web site and its availability; best way to access the site is to go to the City and to the Mayor's Office (www.chattanooga.gov). It's www.chattanoogago!fest.org .

Matt Lea reported that Go!Fest was successful in raising \$15,000 from the City and \$5,000 from sponsors. There are

five Go!Fest billboards around town; Chattem provided another \$1,000 for advertising.

Carol Martin reminded everyone of the Awards Luncheon to be held October 10, 2007, at the Trade Center sponsored by the Southeast Tennessee Consortium of agencies that collaborate in effort to provide jobs for people with disabilities.

Newspaper editorial about mental health care about disparagement between mental health coverage and physical medical coverage in today's Times Free Press; it's a good article.

Jim Abbott, one-armed baseball player is coming to speak at Fort Wood Center fundraiser event on November 15.

Karl Epperson has been reappointed to the Mayor's Council on Disability. He will be returning soon.

Next MCD meeting will be held Monday, November 05, 2007, 3:00-4:30pm, at the DRC.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bea Lyons, Vice Chair.

